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COUNTRY SWEDEN		REPORT NO. IR-291-55	(Leave Blank) HF667714
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT (Unc) Observations at a Russian Cocktail Party Where Western Service Attachés Were Guests			
AREA REPORTED ON Sweden		FROM (Agency) OAirA, Stockholm, Sweden	EVALUATION A-1; B-3
DATE OF REPORT 9 June 1955		DATE OF INFORMATION 3 June 1955	SOURCE Personal contact
PREPARED BY (Name) LT COL E H BERKENKAMP & MAJOR D J HAVARD			
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) BAIR 1B; IR-274-55			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112 - Part II.)			
<p>1. This report contains an account of observations made at a cocktail party given by the Russian Military Attaché in honor of his assistant, Major Vladimir Konobeev, who is terminating his tour in Stockholm and returning to Moscow. In addition, further information on Major Konobeev is related as it was received from two other sources. Although it is difficult to evaluate the reliability of the information in paragraph 6 and 7 of the following pages, it is being forwarded for whatever it is worth.</p>			
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1. On 3 June 1955 a cocktail party was given by the Russian Military and Air Attaché, Colonel Semen Iouchtchenko. It was given in Colonel Iouchtchenko's apartment at Linnegatan 21, Stockholm.

2. The reporting officer and Mrs. Berkenkamp attended the party and among the guests, the following "Iron Curtain" individuals were present:

(Host) Colonel and Mrs. Semen Iouchtchenko (Russian Military and Air Attaché)
 Major and Mrs. Vladimir Konobeev (Assistant Military Attaché)
 Captain Nikolai Sokol (Russian Naval Attaché)
 Colonel Serguei Evdokimov (Russian Asst Military Attaché)
 Major Boris Konev (Russian Asst Military Attaché)
 Lt. Colonel Roman Szczepaniak (Polish Military-Naval-Air Attaché)
 Captain Wladyslaw Wojcik (Polish Asst Military Attaché)
 Interpreter (name unknown)
 Possibly other members of the Russian Embassy

There were several other women present, presumably wives of the above officers, but their identity was not determined. Also among the guests were:

Swedish Foreign Liaison officers, including General Årmann
 British Army, Naval and Air attaches
 Canadian Army and Naval attaches
 Egyptian military attaché
 Dutch military-air attaché
 Finnish military attaché
 Danish military attaché
 American Army and Naval attaches

Apparently all of the foreign service attaches assigned to Sweden were invited; however, not all attended. This may have been due to another party at the Norwegian Embassy.

3. Major and Mrs. Konobeev were at the head of the receiving line most of the time. Some of the other iron curtain members made up the rest of the receiving line. Major Konobeev was the only iron curtain attaché in uniform. The host, Colonel Iouchtchenko, seemed to have full command of the situation. Several times a glance or a nod from him would cause other iron curtain members to move away from the person to whom they may have been speaking. Major Konobeev emphasized several times in conversation with Mrs. Berkenkamp on how glad he would be to return to Moscow after four years in Sweden. On one occasion when Major Konobeev had moved away from his position in the receiving line, one of the Canadian service attaches approached him and stated, "Cornbeef, how is it that you are wearing wings? I thought you were a soldier and not a flyer." Major Konobeev seemed anxious to discontinue the conversation because he immediately moved back to his position in the receiving line with the comment that a soldier had to be able to do anything. (From contact with other western attaches, it is believed that Major Konobeev was an observer in the Russian air army during World War II).

4. The interpreter, mentioned in par 2, did not participate in the social gathering but appeared to be standing aside to assist when needed. He stated to Mrs. Berkenkamp that he was the Russian interpreter and could speak English and Swedish quite well. He had spoken only a few words when beckoned away by Colonel Iouchtchenko. He left immediately and excused himself somewhat embarrassed.

5. Major Konev spoke English reasonably well, however he stated that upon his first arrival in Sweden his English was somewhat better but it had deteriorated as his

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Swedish improved. Captain Sokol when addressed in English asked that we speak Swedish since he did not understand English very well. Most of the conversation was about everyday matters such as the weather, how we liked Sweden, etc., and was of no particular significance.

6. A British Service attaché, who knows Major Konobeev better than most, volunteered the following: Although he and the Dutch Service attaché were invited to (and attended) this party, neither of their respective wives were invited. He felt that the reason, in the case of his wife, was that she had reminded Major Konobeev of his rudeness at the Service Attaché Ball last May 12th; her reason for doing this was when Major Konobeev twice terminated her dancing by calling her Russian officer dancing partner away in the middle of the dance. He also stated that Konobeev once said he (Konobeev) was an air gunner during World War II, was shot down and had suffered frostbite of the hands. After the war Konobeev transferred to the Red Army. The British believe, however, that Konobeev is still a full fledged member of the Red Air Force and a member of the MVD; also that Konobeev is not his real name. This informant further stated that Konobeev once had a visa to England denied on the basis of his affiliation with the MVD. Konobeev has a very intimate knowledge of England - almost as if he had lived there for some time.

7. A reliable Swedish source also volunteered the information that Konobeev was in the Red Air Force during World War II, but as a pilot; that he was shot down, received frost bite on his hands, that he is still in the Red Air Force in the MVD even though he declares he is in the Red Army. Also, that he is the Number One man in the Russian Embassy in Stockholm, and that Konobeev is not his real name.

COMMENTS of the Preparing Officers:

8. This is the first time (in the past several years at least) the Russians have had a going away party for an assistant attaché. In the past they have left Sweden without any prior knowledge to attaché colleagues. During the month of April Major Konobeev informed Major Havard of this office that he was returning to Moscow in June or July on leave, and would return. The change occurred within the past few weeks making his return to Russia permanent. Major Konobeev has been the most friendly of the Russian and Iron Curtain attachés. His knowledge of several languages, unobstructed conversations with other western attachés, and the fact that the Russian attaché saw fit to have a farewell cocktail party for this individual, indicate that Major Konobeev is recognized in his own government, or at least in the Russian Embassy in Stockholm, as one of greater importance than perhaps his rank or title reveals.

9. Paragraphs 1 through 5 are evaluated A-1; paragraphs 6 and 7, B-3.

Handwritten signature

DAVID J. HAVARD

Major, USAF

Assistant Air Attaché

EUGENE H. BERKENKAMP

Lt. Colonel, USAF

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